

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating
3 an original order for goods and services for end-use by said
4 individual employee determine that a resulting invoice
5 should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
7 system from said individual employee a requisition for
8 goods or services from a vendor;

9 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
10 from said requisition a purchase order;

11 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
12 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
13 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
14 vendor;

15 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or
16 services as one of an electronic invoice and a paper

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17 invoice, said electronic invoice being received for
18 processing by said enterprise accounting and catalog
19 system and said paper invoice being received for
20 processing to said enterprise accounting and catalog
21 system by accounts payable personnel;

22 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
23 said goods or services or commodities ordered by said
24 individual employee;

25 storing said invoice image in an image store;

26 keying said image to invoice data;

27 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
28 communicating by electronic mail an invoice
29 confirmation request to said individual creating said
30 original order, said request instructing said
31 individual employee to log on to said enterprise
32 accounting and catalog system, including said invoice
33 data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying
34 that said invoice is subject to one of negative
35 confirmation and positive confirmation processing;

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36 providing at a user workstation a search interface in
37 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
38 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
39 images of invoices that match said criteria be
40 displayed at said user workstation; and

41 responsive to selection of ~~said link~~ a link by said
42 individual, displaying said invoice image for approval
43 by said individual creating said original order
44 selectively by said confirmation and positive
45 confirmation processing.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting

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4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look and feel of a
6 paper invoice.

1 4. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, said
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, said
2 invoice confirmation request further advising said
3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and
4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Currently amended] The method of claim 5, further
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual
7 employee.

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1 7. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices
4 matching a selection criteria.

1 8. [Canceled]

1 9. [Currently amended] A system for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee creating an original order
3 for goods or services for end use by said individual
4 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,
5 comprising:

6 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

7 a back-end procurement services system;

8 a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

9 an image system and store for storing said scanned
10 images and serving them to said workstation keyed to

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11 said invoice;

12 a workstation selectively receiving user entry from
13 said individual employee of a requisition request for
14 goods or services for end-use by said individual
15 employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing
16 images of invoices from said image system and store;
17 said confirmation request instructing said individual
18 employee to log on to said back-end system to view and
19 approve an invoice by a specified one of negative and
20 positive confirmation processing;

21 said front-end system selectively receiving said
22 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding
23 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and
24 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end
25 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

26 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase
27 orders against said requisitions to a vendor
28 selectively as one of an electronic and paper purchase
29 order, receiving and processing invoices electronic
30 invoices directly from said vendor and paper invoices
31 as received and processed by accounts payable

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32 personnel, keying invoice images to invoice
33 information, and processing confirmation requests to
34 said front-end system for communication to said
35 workstation for approval by said individual employee
36 creating said original order.

1 10. [Previously presented] A program storage device
2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform a method for
4 processing invoices by having the individual employee
5 creating an original order determine that a resulting
6 invoice should be paid or not, said method comprising:

7 preparing an invoice image;

8 storing said invoice image in an image store;

9 keying said image to invoice data;

10 communicating invoice confirmation request to said
11 individual employee, said request including said
12 invoice data and a link to said invoice image;

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13 responsive to requester selection of said link,
14 displaying said invoice image to said individual
15 employee for approval by said individual employee
16 creating said original order.

1 11. [Currently amended] A computer program product or
2 computer program element for processing invoices by having
3 the individual employee creating an original order for goods
4 and services for end-use by said individual employee
5 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not
6 according to steps comprising:

7 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
8 system from said individual employee a requisition for
9 goods or services from a vendor;

10 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
11 from said requisition a purchase order;

12 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
13 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
14 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
15 vendor;

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16 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or
17 services as one of an electronic invoice and a paper
18 invoice, said electronic invoice being received for
19 processing by said enterprise accounting and catalog
20 system and said paper invoice being received for
21 processing to said enterprise accounting and catalog
22 system by accounts payable personnel;

23 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
24 said goods or services ordered by said individual
25 employee;

26 storing said invoice image in an image store;

27 keying said image to invoice data;

28 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
29 communicating by electronic mail communicating an
30 invoice confirmation request to said individual
31 employee, said request instructing said individual
32 employee to log on to said enterprise accounting and
33 catalog system, including said invoice data and a link
34 to said invoice image, and specifying that said invoice
35 is subject to one of negative confirmation and positive

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36 confirmation processing;

37 providing at a user workstation a search interface in
38 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
39 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
40 images of invoices that match said criteria be
41 displayed at said user workstation; and

42 responsive to selection of ~~said link~~ a link by said
43 individual employee, displaying said invoice image for
44 approval by ~~said said~~ said individual employee creating
45 said original order selectively by said confirmation
46 and positive confirmation processing.

1 12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 13. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

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3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look and feel of a
6 paper invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and

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5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices
7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.

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